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REVIEW OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Follow-up to the decisions taken by the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations at its resumed 1995 session

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Note

At its resumed 1995 session, the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the reports of several organizations at its 1996 session (see E/1996/17).

I. QUADRENNIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD 1990-1993

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its resumed 1995 session discussed the quadrennial reports for the period 1990-1993.

A. Liberal International

2. Regarding the report of Liberal International (see E/C.2/1995/2), several members of the Committee stated that the report was satisfactory and that the organization had complied with the provisions of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). Other members of the Committee stated that the report and subsequent information provided by the organization were not satisfactory, especially regarding references to "Taiwan" and "Macedonia" and the information provided regarding the "Unión Liberal Cubana". The Committee decided that it would pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session (see E/1996/17, para. 10).

3. The Secretariat informed the organization of the decision taken by the Committee.

B. Christian Democrat International

4. Regarding the report of Christian Democrat International (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.3), one member requested additional information regarding the "peace process, reconciliation and/or democratization in a number of countries". The Committee, noting that the information had not been provided during the current session, decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session (see E/1996/17, para. 11).

5. The organization communicated the following information to the Secretariat:

> The text of our quadrennial report for the period 1990-1993 (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.3) states the following on the point mentioned:
>
> "Major activities include the following:
>
> Support for the peace process, reconciliation and/or democratization in a number of countries: El Salvador, Nicaragua, Madagascar, Burundi, Rwanda, Cuba, Haiti, Zaire and the Philippines;" (a description of other activities follows.)
>
> The Committee has requested three clarifications: (a) the nature of the activities in connection with the peace process, reconciliation and/or democratization in Cuba; (b) who is participating in these activities; (c) what are the funds and the origin of the funds supporting these activities and their implementation.
>
> This is our reply:
>
> (a) Christian Democrat International (CDI) is an international organization of political parties, federations of parties and regional and

sectoral organizations throughout the world whose principles, values and objectives are clearly described in the introduction to the quadrennial report cited. The activities of CDI in all the countries listed are of a political and humanitarian nature. The following are some examples:

(i) Inclusion of a specific theme/country in statutory meetings of CDI, as well as in national and/or international conferences and forums. Adoption and dissemination of resolutions and declarations;

(ii) Solidarity with the political positions and activities of the parties and regional organizations which are members of CDI;

(iii) Recognition and support for concrete signs of openness and dialogue on the part of Governments and among the political and social sectors of the countries referred to above;

(iv) Promotion and support for the positions of intergovernmental organizations having these same objectives;

(v) Condemnation of any form of violence, foreign intervention in the internal affairs of any country, and any violation of human rights and the rights of peoples, whatever the cause or pretext may be;

(vi) Statements to the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva;

(vii) Contacts with Governments, their ambassadors and delegates;

(viii) Visits to those countries by representatives of CDI member parties and organizations;

(b) CDI member parties and organizations participate in these activities through their accredited representatives;

(c) These and all other CDI activities are financed with its own funds derived from annual contributions from CDI member parties and organizations.

C. International Young Christian Workers

6. Regarding the report of International Young Christian Workers (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.6), some members requested additional information on the activities of the organization since they related specifically to the Economic and Social Council. The Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session (see E/1996/17, para. 13).

7. The organization has communicated the following information to the Secretariat:

Our direct participation in activities related to the United nations during 1990-1993 was limited to the activities of UNESCO and the ILO. However, during that period we maintained our participation in Economic and Social Council activities through our sister organization, the World Movement of Christian Workers (WMCW).

The reason for delegating our participation to WMCW concerns our internal organization: in recent years, we have been faced with the problem of working with an insufficient number of full-time staff in our international secretariat. In the interim, however, we did participate actively in the non-governmental organizations group which, coordinated by WMCW, prepared a declaration for the World Summit for Social Development, among other activities.

In November 1995, we convened our International Council and Summit of Young Workers in South Africa, at which a new team was elected for the international secretariat, and its staff is now complete. We can therefore assure you of a more efficient representation in the future, and we hope that we can count on your understanding concerning the period in question.

D. International Agency for Rural Industrialization

8. Regarding the report of the International Agency for Rural Industrialization (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.8), the Committee decided to request the organization to provide additional information regarding its activities on "promotion of rural industrialization" and to request the representative of the organization to appear before the Committee at its 1996 session (see E/1996/17, para. 15).

9. The organization has not replied to the Secretariat.

II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS 1993 SESSION

A. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs, and World Africa Chamber of Commerce

10. The Committee, noting the information provided to the Secretariat by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs, and the World Africa Chamber of Commerce, decided to request those three organizations to confirm their interest in using their consultative status in the future (see E/1996/17, para. 18).

11. The Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs provided the following information:

Basic Information on FITAC

The Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs (FITAC) is the name adopted beginning 26 November 1963 by the body founded in Mexico on 21 September 1941 under the name International Federation of Automobile Clubs (FIAC), on the initiative of the Governments of the Americas meeting in Mexico City for the fourth Pan-American Highway Congress and the second Inter-American Travel Congress.

The objective of FITAC is to achieve unity, defend the interests and coordinate the efforts of its affiliates in order to promote and develop tourism, motoring and road construction in all their forms and manifestations in the Americas.

The following organizations or clubs are members: Automóvil Club Argentino, Touring Club Argentino, Touring y Automóvil Club Boliviano, Automóvil Club do Brazil, Touring Club do Brazil, Canadian Automobile Association, Touring y Automóvil Club de Colombia, Automóvil Club de Costa Rica, Automóvil Club de Chile, American Automobile Association, American Automobile Touring Alliance, Automóvil Club del Ecuador, Automóvil Club del Salvador, Asociación Mexicana Automovilística, Asociación Nacional Automovilística (Mexico), Touring y Automóvil Club Paraguayo, Touring y Automóvil Club del Peru, Trinidad and Tobago Automobile Association, Automóvil Club del Uruguay, Centro Automovilista del Uruguay, and Touring y Automóvil Club de Venezuela.

The management and administration of FITAC is the responsibility of the Assembly, which is the highest authority; the Board of Directors, which is responsible for ensuring that the statutes and regulations are observed, and the Executive Committee, which acts on behalf of the Executive Board.

The legal domicile of FITAC is Buenos Aires. Its current statute was adopted at the meeting of the FITAC Assembly held in Washington, D.C., in August 1981.

Its current President is Dr. Carlos A. Mersán, President of the Touring y Automóvil Club Paraguayo. The members of the Board of Directors for the period 1994-1998 are:

American Automobile Association (United States)
Touring y Automóvil Club Boliviano
Automóvil Club de Chile
Centro Automovilista del Uruguay
Automóvil Club do Brasil
Touring Club Argentino
Asociación Mexicana Automovilística
Touring y Automóvil Club de Venezuela

Achievements

1. FITAC prepared the first distinctly American customs document, a customs passage booklet, whose use markedly streamlined automobile travel the Americas.

2. FITAC has promoted the earliest possible completion of the Pan-American Highway system and the installation of roadside auxiliary services (filling stations and other facilities, public lavatories, hotels, motels, etc.).

3. It has favoured uniformity of legal regimes for transit and signage systems in the Americas. It should be highlighted that its efforts and advocacy had an influence on the change to right-hand drive in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, resulting in uniform drive throughout the continent.

4. FITAC negotiated the signing of bilateral agreements and continental conventions to promote exchanges by eliminating such obstacles as applications to consulates for visas, immigration regulations and entry or exit permits.

5. FITAC has worked continuously in favour of the earliest possible signing and/or ratification by all the countries in the hemisphere of the Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automobile Traffic, the adoption of the International Automobile Registration Certificate and the International Driver's Licence.

6. FITAC has organized automotive sporting competitions as a way to promote the use of the highways making up the Pan-American System.

7. It has attempted to coordinate customs operations in order to avoid difficulties and delays in inter-American transit.

8. In harmony with its aim of promoting inter-American travel, the development of which will undoubtedly foster friendship among peoples through mutual knowledge and cultural and economic exchanges, FITAC has organized and encouraged the production of the greatest possible amount of information on roads and tourism.

Report of activities

(February 1991-February 1996)

In the period 1991-1996, FITAC made efforts among all its member associations to advance its plan of work and to develop activities to promote tourism between the various member countries.

Mention should also be made of the exchange of information on the respective services that each club offered to its members, which were also granted to all members of the various clubs forming FITAC.

During this period, FITAC held annual meetings in several of its member countries, at which topics relating to the strengthening of unity and cooperation among the automobile clubs affiliated with it were discussed.

Efforts have been under way for many years to establish an insurance company with FITAC members as shareholders, and another specialized body through which each organization would communicate its experiences in that area. This project will soon be finalized.

We have also been working on forming a company to increase tourism, also with share capital from all the members of FITAC, with the goal of reducing the cost of travel from one country to another, thus giving tourism among the countries of the Americas a needed boost.

A guide to services provided by affiliated organizations to tourists from other countries was produced to help tourists in planning their trips.

Members conducted activities in their respective countries to harmonize criteria for action and thus to improve services. For example, in Chile, a meeting was held in November 1995 at the Automóvil Club de Chile with the heads of all the automobile clubs affiliated with FITAC in order to exchange experiences and views on matters of common interest. This is an innovation that originated with this organization and will continue into the future, undoubtedly with excellent results.

It should be noted that, owing to the serious economic difficulties in most countries in the Americas, only one of the several FITAC working groups has been able to meet in recent years, namely the Committee on Statutes and Legal Affairs. At this meeting, the constitution and statutes of the Automóvil Club de Costa Rica were examined; it had requested affiliation with our organization and is now a member. FITAC has grown with the addition of a new member body, and thus its annual meeting in 1996 will be held in San José, Costa Rica.

After some deliberations, our organization, at the last meeting of the Board of Directors in Caracas in 1995, made the use of the FITAC logo mandatory in all international documents issued by any of its member clubs. This decision, which took effect on 1 January 1996, helps to give the organization even more visibility in the Americas.

At our offices in Buenos Aires, where the Secretariat is located, we also sell maps of member countries (and sales are constantly increasing) which kindly provide us with the materials, including materials on other areas of the world. This service is very well received by the entire membership and the general public, who come to us because it is difficult to plan a trip without good maps. We believe that in this way we are making an important contribution to tourism and promotion, especially in the countries of the Americas.

As we have mentioned above, although the general economic situation in our member countries has delayed some projects which have been put on hold, others have already been completed and others are still under preparation.

FITAC and all its member clubs are continuing to work to expand the organization's presence throughout the Americas.

B. Institute for Policy Studies

12. Regarding the report of the Institute for Policy Studies (see E/C.2/1995/3), the Committee, during the current session, requested the organization to indicate if it had used its consultative status since 1991 and if it intended to use it in the future. Since the information requested was not provided, the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session (see E/1996/17, para. 19).

13. The organization communicated the following information to the Secretariat:

The Institute for Policy Studies intends to use its consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in the next few years, especially related to the Paths for the 21st Century Project. This project, international in scope, concerns itself with new ideas and movements in all issues bearing on economic and social justice, as well as human rights. The project involves leading scholars around the world who will produce an eight-volume series on paths for the 21st century.

C. International Committee for European Security and Cooperation

14. Regarding the report of the International Committee for European Security and Cooperation (see E/C.2/1995/3), the Committee, during the current session, requested the organization to provide additional information on its activities specifically connected with the Economic and Social Council. Since the information requested was not provided, the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session (see E/1996/17, para. 20).

15. As of 15 July 1996, no reply had been received from the organization.

D. International Society for Research on Aggression

16. Regarding the report of the International Society for Research on Aggression (see E/C.2/1995/3), the Committee, during the current session, requested the organization to provide additional information on its activities specifically connected with the Economic and Social Council. Since the information requested was not provided, the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session (see E/1996/17, para. 21).

17. As of 15 July 1996, no reply had been received from the organization.

E. Pax Christi International

18. Regarding the report of Pax Christi International (see E/C.2/1995/3/Add.1), several members of the Committee were of the opinion that the report was satisfactory and in compliance with Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). Other members pointed out that the report and the additional information provided by the organization were not satisfactory, in particular the references to the issue of Tibet. The Committee decided to close its discussion of the report and to request the organization to provide further information for consideration by the Committee at its 1996 session (see E/1996/17, para. 22).

19. The organization has provided the following information:

Report of activities, 1992-1995

Pax Christi is an international Catholic peace movement that was founded towards the end of World War II to foster reconciliation and peace. Pax Christi believes that Christians should be in the forefront of the search for new approaches in the fields of security and demilitarization; human rights; ecology and development; and the linking of these issues.

New York

The Pax Christi team at the United Nations in New York has dealt mainly with the following issues: disarmament; arms trade and security issues; social development and human rights; inter-faith dialogue; child soldiers; street children; and refugees. Team members attended relevant United Nations forums, networked with other non-governmental organizations with similar agendas, called the national missions of appropriate countries, presented interventions, attended seminars and study days, and developed research files.

The Pax Christi team participated actively in the work of the three subcommittees of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Disarmament. One representative attended General Assembly First Committee meetings on issues of security and disarmament; compiled resource materials on such issues as the Conventional Arms Register; and had contacts with the Centre for Disarmament. Other representatives attended General Assembly Third Committee meetings on human rights issues; subcommittee meetings on child soldiers and street children of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF; attended the various non-governmental organizations committees on human rights, the family and ageing; and participated in the work of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Religion.

In 1993, about 50 European and Asian participants in Pax Christi International working groups and commissions paid a visit to the United Nations in New York, where they participated in a two-day information programme on the work of the United Nations, which was prepared by the New York representatives of Pax Christi.

The Pax Christi team at the United Nations spent much of its time on issues related to the World Summit for Social Development, and sent a delegation to the Summit itself. Work was also done in the area of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Many national branches of Pax Christi were active in national and international campaigns for a total ban on land-mines; on the issue of the United Nations Arms Trade Register; on the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty; and on arms trade issues in general.

The Pax Christi team at the United Nations regularly responded to requests from Pax Christi International and from its national branches for information, resource materials and personal contacts.

Geneva, human rights, fact-finding and missions

Fact-finding visits and missions were sent to study the human rights situation in Georgia (1992); Armenia and Azerbaijan (1992); Haiti (1993); the Sudan (1993); Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Territories (1993); Turkey (1993); Brazil (1994); Romania (1994); the Central African Republic (1995); and the Russian Federation (Chechnya, 1995). An observer team was sent to Angola in 1992.

The Pax Christi team in Geneva was active primarily in the field of human rights, most notably by organizing briefings and presenting interventions at the annual sessions of the Human Rights Commission and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

Pax Christi interventions at meetings of the Commission for Human Rights over its last four sessions covered, inter alia, religious intolerance; torture and disappearances; violations of human rights in all countries; the rights of the child; the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights, with particular reference to the right to conscientious objection as a basic human right; the exploitation of women; the debt crisis and the right to development; anti-personnel mines; and extreme poverty. Some interventions were made in collaboration with other non-governmental organizations.

Interventions at the last four sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention on Discrimination and Protection of Minorities covered, inter alia, the situation in the Middle East; former Yugoslavia; the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville; Haiti; the Commonwealth of Independent States; intolerance and discrimination; and, in close cooperation with other non-governmental organizations, the United Nations Year for Indigenous Peoples, and the issues of apartheid, racism and discrimination.

Vienna

A six-member Pax Christi International delegation participated in the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, June 1993).

Pax Christi International publishes a bi-monthly newsletter in English and French. The newsletter includes information; reports; announcements of activities, seminars and conferences; and news from affiliated groups, national branches, the international movement and Pax Christi representatives at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. Pax Christi has a catalogue that briefly describes a broad range of its publications on such topics as human rights, security and disarmament, North-South relations and the United Nations.

Detailed reports of the work of the Pax Christi teams were regularly submitted to its Executive Committee and to its appropriate commissions and/or working groups. Team members also reported regularly on United Nations initiatives and developments in the various publications issued by national branches of Pax Christi.